

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Third Grade! Even though the summer has just begun, I am already looking forward to the new school year with you. As you know, St. John's is a special place, a community that values an attitude of learning. To emphasize the importance of that, we have a summer reading assignment for you as incoming third graders.

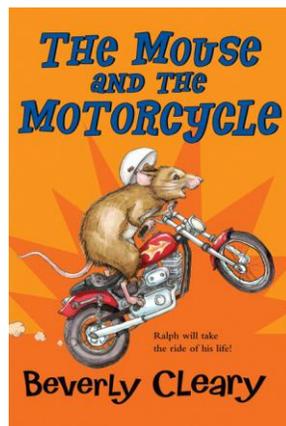
Over the summer, each incoming third grader will focus on reading one book written by the well-known author Beverly Cleary. She has written over thirty books in her lifetime and has won many prestigious awards including the Newbery Medal.

1.) There will be one assignment to complete over the break, and it is **due the first day of school**. Each incoming third grader will be required to read *The Mouse and the Motorcycle*. After finishing the novel, the students will complete one of the options listed on the following page. Please be sure to proofread your work and make sure you answer in **complete sentences!**

2.) Students will also select an additional book of their choice by Ms. Cleary or another author to read. We will do a writing activity on this book the first week of school.

Have a fun and relaxing summer!

Happy reading,
Mr. Fangmeyer



Activity Options

- 1) **Write a different ending to the story you have read** - Write a summary of the story. Make the events change so that the new ending could actually happen. Your ending should be complete in a well thought out paragraph or paragraphs.
- 2) **Design a new book jacket for your book** - Include the title and author of the book on the front cover. Write a summary of the book on the back cover in paragraph form. Make sure that your book jacket is colorful!
- 3) **Find a shoebox and construct a diorama of an important scene from the book** - You can include anything in your box to make your scene realistic. Write at least one paragraph describing the scene to accompany your diorama.
- 4) **Write a sample book review for a school newspaper** - Your review should tell your opinion of the book, good or bad, and your reasons for feeling the way you do. Support your opinion by using quotations or events from the book. This should be a well put together paragraph or paragraphs.
- 5) **Construct a mobile of characters in the story and hang them from a clothes hanger** - Attached to each character should be a description and something interesting that happened to them.
- 6) **Choose an interesting scene from your book and illustrate it** - You can use any art materials that you have (canvas, paint, watercolors, chalk, etc). It must be done at least on a 12x18 size sheet. It must be very detailed, not just a lot of sky! On a sheet of lined paper, write a description of the scene you drew. This should be a well put together paragraph or paragraphs.